

Serial No.: 10/707,470
Attorney Docket No.: F-670

Patent

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REMARKS**1. Status of Claims**

Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 19 and 20 and canceled claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. The Amendments are submitted solely to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 17-20 will remain pending in the application.

2. Objections to the Specification

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to recite the shapes rectangular prism and triangular prism in paragraphs 21 and 31 as supported at least by FIG. 2A and FIG. 2D. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and withdrawal of the objection.

3. Objections to the Claims

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 16. Applicants have canceled claim 16 and respectfully request entry of the amendments and withdrawal of the objection.

4. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 19 and 20 for cosmetic reasons to more clearly recite the antecedent basis for the mentioned limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims comply with 35 USC 112 and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

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5. Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,843 to Gelardi, et al. ("Gelardi '843").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Gelardi '843 does not teach or suggest at least two strips of material attached to a substrate wherein:

the first strip is separated from the second strip by a first distance; and
the first strip height is relatively large compared to the substrate thickness.

On page 3, the Examiner cites to Gelardi '843 to show first and second strips by referring to adjacent peaks 15 in FIG. 1. However, such an interpretation is contrary to the teachings of Gelardi '843 in the abstract and at Col. 5, lines 35-49 showing only a single sheet. The Gelardi '843 reference cannot support an interpretation having separated strips as suggested by the Examiner since it teaches only a single sheet having no separation between distinct strips as claimed.

Furthermore, with regard to the strip height – it is the strip height recited in Claim 1, not the height of the strip from a base plane as it seems the Examiner is referring to in Gelardi '843.

With regard to claim 7, the cited reference teaches a leading edge, but not a handle.

With regard to claim 10, the cited reference does not teach vertical decompression upon exiting a roller.

With regard to claim 18, the reference does not teach a triangular prism which is a solid shape.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10 and 18 are patentable over the cited reference.

6. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,843 to Gelardi, et al.

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("Gelardi '843") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,233 to Kikuchi, et al. ("Kikuchi '233"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 4 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above with reference to claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is patentable over the cited references.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,843 to Gelardi, et al. ("Gelardi '843"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 6 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above with reference to claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentable over the cited reference.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 13-14 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,843 to Gelardi, et al. ("Gelardi '843"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Gelardi '843 does not teach the claimed strip dimensions and does not even teach using strips. The claimed strip dimensions are taught to have beneficial properties in terms of the ability to clean sensors located slightly downstream of a roller and Gelardi '846 does not teach or suggest such advantages. Clearly the claimed device operates differently. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to modify Gelardi '846 and the apparent "design choice" style rejection applied here is not appropriate.

Claim 16 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9, 13-14 and 17 are patentable over the cited reference.

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On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,843 to Gelardi, et al. ("Gelardi '843"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 11 and 12 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above with reference to claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 12 are patentable over the cited reference.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,843 to Gelardi, et al. ("Gelardi '843") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,227,844 to Bhattacharjee, et al. ("Bhattacharjee '844").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 15 and 19 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above with reference to claim 1.

Furthermore, it is not clear where Bhattacharjee '844 teaches the shapes described and it is unclear where strips are suggested. Contrary to the Examiner's statements, the instant specification describes different cleaning properties of different strip shapes. Merely claiming alternative shapes does not imply that they are not patentably distinct as suggested by the Examiner.

Additionally, in Gelardi '843, the recitation of area 29 as a gap suggests that the peaks 17 are indeed not strips as explained above. The cited references do not teach the claimed notch in strips.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 19 are patentable over the cited references.

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,843 to Gelardi, et al. ("Gelardi '843") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,227,844 to Bhattacharjee, et al. ("Bhattacharjee '844") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 2,886,841 to Wilcox ("Wilcox '841"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

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Claim 20 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described above with reference to claim 1.

Furthermore, it is not clear where Bhattacharjee '844 teaches the shapes described and it is unclear where strips are suggested. Contrary to the Examiner's statements, the instant specification describes different cleaning properties of different strip shapes. Merely claiming alternative shapes does not imply that they are not patentably distinct as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-15 and 17-20 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

7. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

8. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-670.

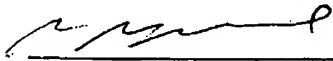
In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or

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credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit
Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-670.

Respectfully submitted,



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